

hot press

Northwest Watercolor Society Newsletter

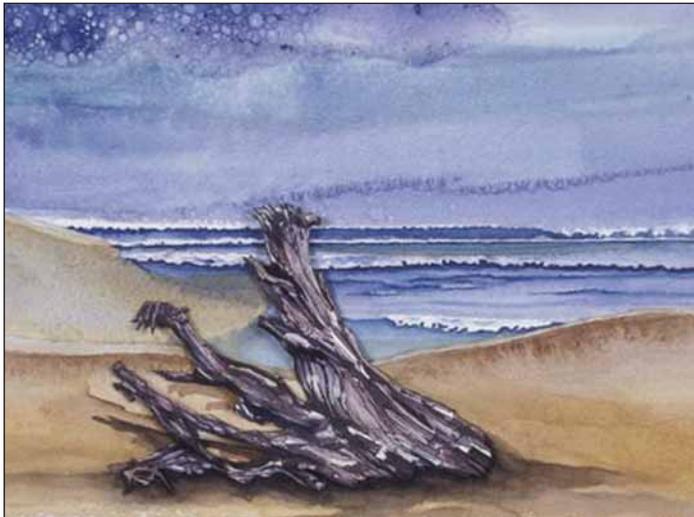
March/April 2008

March Meeting - Billie Torbenson

Willadene (Billie) Torbenson had artistic ambitions as a child and has followed her dream for her lifetime. Her present work has evolved from watercolor painting and involves intricate weaving and sculpting to achieve unique and powerful visions. Her colors are bold and her designs beautiful. She will be presenting at our March meeting to explain the methods that achieve these powerful results. We will learn how she folds and bends paper to achieve shadow effects, her use of gold inks and other accents as well as her thoughts behind each piece of work.

Billie is a member of the Women Painters of Washington, a signature member of NWS, and exhibits at the Stall Gallery at Pike Place Market. Her work has received numerous awards in a wide variety of shows. She is a workshop and

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 5 NWS Board Meeting
- March 25 Membership Meeting – Program, Billie Torbenson
 - 7:00 PM – Social Time
 - 7:30 PM - Meeting
- April 2 NWS Board Meeting
- April 22 Membership Meeting – Program - Pat Dews
 - 7:00 PM – Social Time
 - 7:30 PM - Meeting

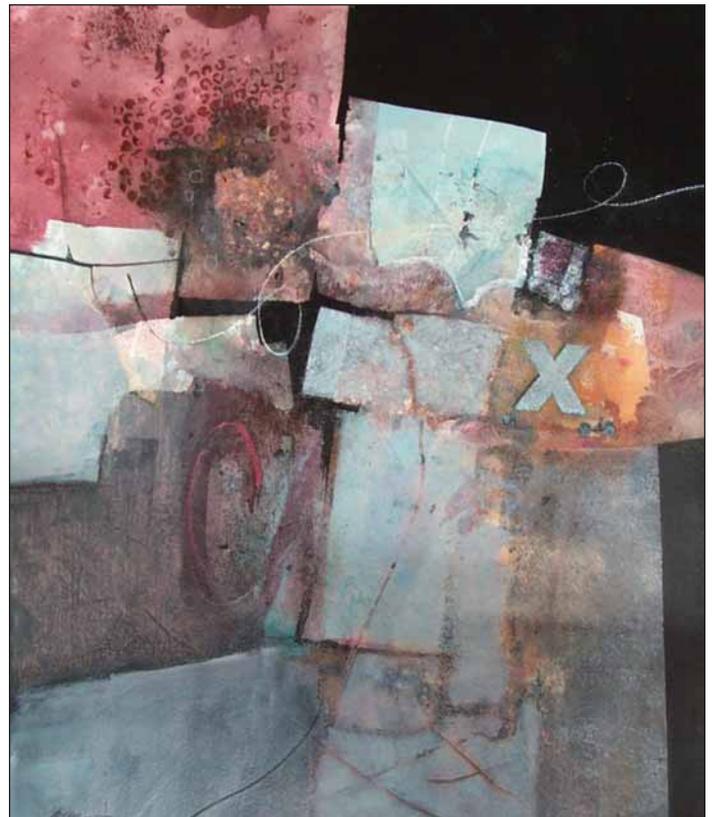
Pat Dews to Judge Open Show and Speak at April Meeting



Pat Dews, a graduate of The Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society and the National Collage Society. She is an elected member of the New Jersey Water Color Society and the National Association of Women Artists. Dews' has won awards from both the American and National Watercolor Societies. She creates experimental works in watermedia on paper and canvas.

She paints the abstract essence of nature. The shapes and textures of flowers, rocks, water and crumbled walls are translated into richly layered paint surfaces. Collage is often integrated. Dews skillfully juggles organic and geometric forms,

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Whew! We did it. We accepted Open Exhibition entries on-line. It took a lot of planning and many tests by members of the board before we opened the registration process to members in November. We hoped that we'd worked out all of the kinks, but of course there are always a few glitches.

Joe McKecknie, Debbie Hagman and I fielded many "Help!" phone calls and e-mails. We were delighted that those of you who

did have problems were patient with the process. Some of you weren't comfortable with computers but were determined to succeed and did well with a little help. Some entrants who had never entered an art show online were anxious about "doing the wrong thing". We also had some problems with the on-line payments. We will work on that prob-

lem and hopefully have it and other issues solved before the Waterworks show next fall.

In the future, we plan to have our membership database on the website so that the business aspects of registering online will be easier for us to track. We will start on that process soon.

It was exciting to see so many wonderful paintings entered into the 2008 Open Exhibition. Pat Dews has her work cut out, picking who will actually be in the show in April.

A big "Thank You" to all of the board members who helped, and also to all of you who entered the show for sending us such wonderful feedback e-mails about the process. The majority were very complimentary.

The first step is always the hardest, and we've done that! Now we can relax a little bit.

Sheila Mattick
NWWS President

EDITORIAL

Making The Cut



You are the chairman of the Signature show or the juror for Waterworks and you have space for eighty paintings. You have received eighty three. As you sort through the entries, you are profoundly disappointed by the quality of the work.

Do you hang all but three? Do you select the best thirty and abbreviate the show? What is the value of acceptance into one of our exhibitions? Do we devalue the Signature membership designation by displaying other than the artist's best work? Shouldn't our Signature show present to the world the very best our organization can offer?

And what of Waterworks? Perhaps this is simply the venue for members to display their paintings. If we receive hundreds of entries, the juror can select for quality (or their definition of quality). But what if we receive roughly as many entries as the available space will accommodate? Do we hang everything?

One solution proposed by our treasurer, Beth Calkins, is to select a fixed percentage – say 45% of all entries regardless of numbers. That may make it too difficult to enter a show and may discourage members from trying.

There is a sensitive balance to be struck here.

These are the types of questions that keep your editor awake nights.

Letters to the editor welcome.

Jeffrey.waters@comcast.net

The thoughts and opinions expressed in this editorial are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent any position of NWWS.

Absolutely, Positively, Final Mass Printed Hot Press Edition

The NWWS board voted to print one final edition to be mailed to all members. This allowed the inclusion of the roster addendum and provided one more opportunity for members to request continued receipt of the black and white edition of the newsletter. To request future delivery, E-mail the editor at jeffrey.waters@comcast.net or write, Jeffrey L. Waters – 6510 Fairway Avenue SE – Snoqualmie, WA 98065. The expanded, color version is available at our website – members section at nwws.org.

KUDOS

Our treasurer, Beth Calkins performed a Herculean task in analyzing our financial situation and preparing a series of board motions that addressed the areas of weakness.

Thank you, Beth.



NWWS Financial Health and Well Being

The board of directors devoted its entire December 5, 2007, meeting to a review of NWWS's income and expense trends for the past five years. We started by looking at how your annual dues are spent and discovered that our expenses are higher than our income. Yikes! Obviously, not a good situation.

Then the board looked at what other, similar watercolor societies are charging for dues, show entry fees, and workshops. With our financial trends and other society charges in mind, we discussed the pros and cons of raising various rates, cutting services, and/or charging for items that are currently free. We also discussed ways to cut expenses by making better use of e-mail and our website.

Beginning with the 2008 membership year (June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2009), dues will be \$40 for a single membership and \$75 for a dual membership (2 adults in one household). This is our first dues increase since 1997. To encourage membership by younger artists, we are establishing a new membership category for students (under 25 with current college ID) at \$20.

The lifetime (member for 30 years) and sustaining (one lump-sum payment) membership categories have been discontinued. Members who have already met the requirements of these two categories are "grandfathered."

There are two main reasons why the board decided to discontinue these membership categories. The sustaining membership category was instituted back when banks paid interest in double digits. This has not been the case for quite some time and so these lump-sum payments are not earning enough interest to pay current dues for the lifetime sustaining members. As our members age, a reflection of the society around us, the number of members who over the next few years would qualify for lifetime membership would raise our non-dues paying membership to 20% of the total.

We are joining the 21st century and trying to make better use of e-mail and our website. Our first foray into this realm was the online entry process for the 2008 Annual Open Exhibition. One of the expenses we reduced was printing and mailing a prospectus for this show.

Printing and mailing the newsletter is another very large piece of NWWS's expenses. We encourage you to read the full-color newsletter online at the member's page of NWWS.org. The black & white newsletter will continue to be mailed to those who request it.

Recognizing that some of our members are not comfortable with computers, we urge you to find a "buddy" who is. If you don't have a computer, you can visit your local library and use theirs. The library is also a great resource for beginner classes on computers and the internet.

The board believes that the changes it is making will put NWWS back on a firm financial footing. If you have any questions, please email our treasurer, Beth Calkins, at ehcalkins@msn.com, or write to NWWS at P O Box 50387, Bellevue, WA 98015. (Please, no phone calls.)

MEMBER NEWS

Margaret Stermer-Cox had one of her recent paintings accepted in Bremer-ton's Collective Visions Art Gallery Annual Juried Art Show (331 Pacific Avenue). The show runs through the month of February. Peggy has also been accepted into Shearwater Gallery in Seaside, OR, (111 Broadway).

Kathy Collins' solo show will feature watercolors inspired by U.S. and European bicycling trips. Opening Friday evening March 14, at Kaewyn Gallery, 10101 Main St., Bothell

Phyllis Meyer and **Preecha Promprabtuk** were accepted into the 2008 American Watercolor Society (AWS) Show in April at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Pat SanSoucie will be one of the selected jury members.

Watercolor • Pastel • Mixed Media • Oil • Acrylic • Collage

2008 Art Workshops

Bend, OR JOHN LOVETT BETTY CARR GERALD BROMMER LIAN ZHEN LANA GROW RON RANSON RICHARD MCKINLEY NESSA GRAINGER CRISTINA ACOSTA JUDY MORRIS SHARON TIETJEN	Old San Juan, PR ALVARO CASTAGNET
Lahaina, Maui Kapaa, Kauai Santa Barbara, CA MEL STABIN	San Francisco, CA DAVID TAYLOR FRANK FRANCESE
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Featured Artist – Linda Dunn



Painting plein air scenes of the Pacific Northwest is one of Linda's favorite activities. After living in NYC much of her life, she is continually impressed by the beauty of our area. Linda moved to Kirkland, Washington five years ago and loves it. She is a real estate agent with John L. Scott which allows her freedom to see the area. One of her commitments is to provide great real estate services to the arts community.

NYC was a wonderful, stimulating and challenging place for Linda to live. She was in the investment business advising major banks' trusts departments. It didn't leave much time for watercolor which always called to her. Her Saturdays were spent with Dale Meyers Cooper at the Art Student's League and she spent several weeks in the summer in wonderful workshops in Italy and Maine painting with Frank Webb, David Dewey and Lee Boynton.

Sandwiched between years in Manhattan was an eight year stint in Southern California where she studied with Roger Armstrong, who, as one of his

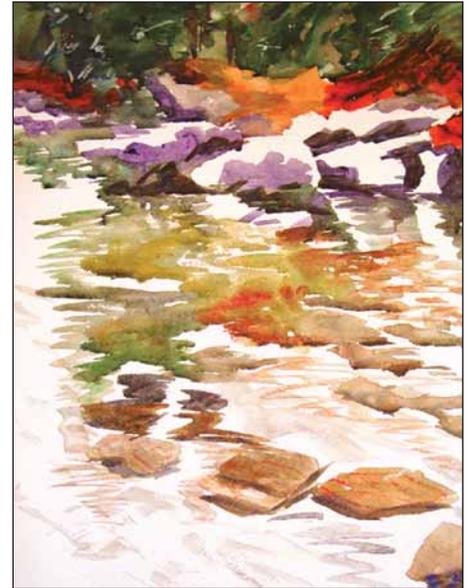
obituaries stated when he died last year, "had an amazing life as a cartoonist, and an equally important, perhaps more important, life as an art teacher and watercolor artist. His landscapes were exhibited in every major gallery in Southern California and hundreds of accomplished artists cite him as a great tutor and source of inspiration."

While she was there, she learned to love the gorgeous work of southern California school of light painters, who were followers of the great impressionists. These included Guy Rose, William Wendt, Edgar Payne, Alson Clark and Frantz Bischoff. They strongly influenced her in the way they captured light in bold, energized brush strokes. Other contemporary favorites are Marc Whitney who paints beautiful nudes, landscapes and interiors and Wayne Forte, a classically-trained very powerful painter of figure studies often with important allegorical themes.



More recently, Linda has worked on documenting scenes of local parks with her fellow NWWs and EAFA plein air painters. She has shown in the 2005 and 2006 Kirkland Artists Studio Tour (KAST), and in Alix Despard's studio. One of Linda's paintings was included in this year's EAFA juried show in Redmond, WA. While keeping the basics of good design, color theory and assorted techniques in mind, she paints the fabulous trees, vistas, fields and mountains of Washington with all the gusto and joy that she feels. She is very honored to be part of the illustrious group of talented painters in NWWs.

Editor's note: Linda Dunn is President-elect of NWWs.



WIEGARDT ON WATERCOLOR

How to Start a Painting

In this series on secrets of painting loose, I have mentioned some practical design concepts and techniques I found helpful in my career. In the last article I dealt with a challenge especially we watercolorists face – how to finish a painting. To follow up, I thought it would be appropriate to address an additional psychological challenge: How to start a painting. Here are a few hints that help me get going:

First and foremost, I always paint what is exciting and interesting to me. I paint with the attitude that if this is the last painting I will ever do, what shall it be? My life drawing teacher at the American Academy of Art would say "Paint what interests you, it will show up in the painting, and you may just have fun doing it!" It has never made much sense to me to drudgingly paint or draw an uninspiring subject for academic reasons. Life is too short.

Secondly, a prepared value study will eliminate much of the guess work in the painting process. My studies are done quickly with a soft 6B pencil or marker. I allow myself only three values: lights, midtones, and darks - any more values than this and my plan risks



confusion and the painting a scattered look. The value pattern also saves time; a five-minute sketch can save me an hour trying to salvage a poorly planned painting. Starting a painting without a value study is like starting the Veg-O-Matic without a lid: a mess everywhere. Most importantly, a value study gives me confidence, it helps me to develop the right attitude of boldness and directness needed in my work. With a good study, the painting will be strong as long as I keep focused on it.

Thirdly, I try not to look at the white piece of paper as a painting to be

made. I focus on it as a study, as a problem to be solved, and as an emotion to be communicated, but, once again, not as a painting. A painting is something of value, to be admired by our peers, to put on the wall, (hopefully not to match the couch!) and refined. That's not for me! I have an idea to communicate, and if it ends up as a painting of worth, that would be a nice bonus.

Unfortunately, this freedom of thought has not come easily for me. I, too, have struggled with the strain and tension of appealing to the tastes of others. As I heard a Southern Belle tell me "Honey, you have between here and here (pointing to my ears) people living that ain't payin' rent. It's time to evict them!" I agree.

Lastly, the first few strokes set the tone for the rest of the painting. I attack the large shapes with boldness, not necessarily speed, but with directness and a large brush. I don't pull my punches. I guess it is a statement to the paper that I am in charge, and if I go down in flames, it's coming with me. Don't let it take you down! This attitude breaks the ice to creative expression.

Eric Wiegardt AWS NWS

Editor's Note: This is the fifth in a series by master watercolorist, Eric Wiegardt. Hot Press is honored to bring this series to you. See the April edition of "Watercolor Artist" magazine for a feature article by Eric.

PARKLANE GALLERY

VIEW US IN A BRAND NEW LIGHT!

Parklane Gallery extends a special invitation to the fine art community to view our gallery's fresh new look! Enjoy an evening of fine art & refreshments, and mingle with acquaintances in the Northwest art world--both old and new. Please join us!

Open House Reception
Saturday, March 22nd
6:00 - 8:00 PM

130 Park Lane - Kirkland
www.parklanegallery.com
425.827.1462

Eric Wiegardt AWS, NWS

Three DVD set: **Secrets of Painting Loose**
Brand New DVD:
Painting Loose - Street Scene



WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS
March 24-28 Joseph, OR
April 1-3 and July 7-11, Ocean Park, WA
May 4-10, Greenville, NY · June 14-28, Italy

Wiegardt Studio Gallery
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www.ericwiegardt.com



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Sue Bennett & Judy Buswell
Cottonwood, CA - Apr. 19 & 20, 2008
Contact: sandip@c-zone.net

Sue Bennett
Yakima, Washington - July 9-12, 2008
Contact: www.larsongallery.com

OPPORTUNITIES

5th Annual Art of Our Mothers Exhibit – Call for Artists

Edmonds Center for the Arts, WA - Deadline: March 28, 2008. Open to all professional and amateur visual artists who are also mothers. Painting, drawing, photography, and sculpture. Approximately 20 pieces will be exhibited, with contact information, in the main lobby of the new Edmonds Center for the Arts, a stunning Art Deco-era building in downtown Edmonds, Washington with regular performances attended by hundreds of patrons. Awards will be presented to Top Three selections: First, \$150; Second, \$100; and Third, \$50. Subject matter of entry does not need to be motherhood. Entry Fee: \$5 non-refundable for up to 2 images. Electronic images preferred and must be in jpg format, with a resolution of 99 dpi, and not exceed 800 X 600 pixels. Slide submissions also accepted. Jury notification: April 4, 2008. Exhibition runs from May 1 to May 31, 2008.

artEast "150' of Art" Benefit Exhibit and Auction

The second annual artEast "150' of Art" Benefit Exhibit and Auction will run March 7-16. Artists reception, Friday, March 7 from 6-9 pm at Up Front gallery, 48 Front Street North in Issaquah. Online bidding on the art will continue until March 16. This event is a unique opportunity to see 100+ affordable artworks from local artists who work in a wide variety of media. NWWWS members are invited to contribute a 12" x 12" painting to the auction and to attend the opening reception. For complete information see: <http://arteast.org/150.htm>.

ArtWalk on the Bay

ArtWalk on the Bay—September 13 and 14, 2008 - Artist Applications Now Being accepted, For full event information visit www.artwalkonthebay.org.

Winter-Spring Classes at ArtWorks

Donna Watson will offer an intensive three-day workshop titled "Personal Approaches to Painting." Watercolor workshops will be led by Mary Anderson, Caroline Buchanan, Darlene Lucas and Colleen Ozora, understanding perspective by Eric Madson and figure drawing classes by Ken Smith. Call 425-774-6049 or email artworks@artworks-edmonds.org or visit our website at www.artworks-edmonds.org.

Cathy Quiel Workshop

Cathy Quiel will offer a workshop with a strong emphasis on color and design in Maui, Hawaii on March 31 – April 4, 2008. Double occupancy \$985-1,100 - 6 nights. Cost varies with room selection. www.maui-bed-and-breakfast.com. Cost without lodging and food - \$550. - Mail \$150 deposit to Cathy Quiel - 494 Stanford Place, Santa Barbara, CA 93111 www.cathyquiel.com. info@santabarbarawatercolor.com (805) 683-4467

Sharon Freeman Watercolor Classes

Sharon Freeman will offer weekend watercolor classes this spring. \$100 or \$180 for two. 360 576 1525, e-mail: pnwwc@teleport.com or visit her website at: www.pnwwatercolors.com

Invitational Art Show

International Spring Invitational Art Show - May 1st - 31st, 2008. Acrylics, Graphics, Mixed Media, Oils, Pastels, and Watercolor. Artists may submit up to three entries for juried selection. All entries must be for sale. Submission deadline for receiving slides, CD's or photos of artwork with entry form and the \$35 entry fee is April 1st. For a prospectus, mail a SASE to: Harrison Art League, P.O. Box 831, Harrison, Arkansas 72602-0831 or download at www.harrison-art-league.org.

Edmonds Arts Festival Call to Artists

The Edmonds Arts Festival is now accepting entries for the 2008 Juried Gallery Exhibition. All artwork except miniatures will be juried from digital images. Entry deadline is April 11, 2008 and notification will be mailed to artists the week of May 18, 2008. For a prospectus, write to: EAF Juried Gallery, P.O. Box 212, Edmonds, WA 98020, e-mail festivalgalleries@edmondsartsfestival.com or visit www.edmondsartsfestival.com for more information or an online application.

Frank Webb AWS Workshop

Frank Webb, AWS Workshop in Winthrop June 2 - 6 2008. Frank will be sharing his expertise at creating bold, juicy and entertaining watercolor paintings. A local wine tasting and group dinner is also planned. Frank's classes fill quickly, so register early. \$550. Information and registration form at: www.paulachristen.com or call (509-996)-2598.

Jacqui Beck Workshop

Jacqui Beck's acrylic painting workshops: 10:00 to 4:00 Rainier Valley Cultural Center, 3515 S Alaska Street, Seattle 98118. Tuition \$75. These are general acrylic painting workshops. Each workshop will have a focus and will also allow time for students to work on individual projects.. Register: jbeck@blarg.net; 206-325-7267 See www.jacquibeck.com for details.

Julie Creighton Workshop

Julie Creighton is offering her annual spring San Juan Islands workshop, "A Weekend with Watercolor", Saturday & Sunday, April 19-20, at the Lopez Island School. For inquiries and registration contact Julie at 425-641-1807 or jcreightonart@juno.com

Peninsula Art League Sixth Annual Juried Exhibition

Peninsula Art League Sixth Annual Juried Exhibition - June 2nd - 25th, Gig Harbor Civic Center - 3510 Grandview Street - Gig Harbor, WA 98335. Contact: Debbie Dorn 523-514-5966 or Peninsula Art League - 253-851-8136. 4232 Ray Nash Dr NW - Gig Harbor, WA 98335. email bedorah@msn.com

Peninsula Art League Watercolor Workshop

Peninsula Art League watercolor workshop with Judy Morris will be held on June 2, 3, & 4, 2008 in Gig Harbor. For information, contact Workshop Chairperson, Mimi VanBallenberghe 253-857-2449 or Email mimistudio@comcast.net

Pat Dews to Judge Open Show and Speak at April Meeting

Continued from page 1

transparent and opaque paint - all held together by a basic abstract underlying shape. It is this intricate dance, rendered in strong color and value, which produces her award-winning paintings. When Pat paints, it is a lively, fascinating performance as she shows that, with the simplest tools, less can become more, much more. Pat is an enthusiastic, popular instructor, teaching workshops internationally. She takes great delight in her students' many successes.

Pat lives and works in Hobe Sound, Florida during the winter and in Southold, New York in the summer. She conducts national and international workshops and has judged numerous national



Kathy Collins Workshops

Kathy Collins' technique for high contrast impressionistic watercolors at three upcoming workshops: Cole Gallery in Edmonds—Sat, Sun February 9th/10th; at Daniel Smith on Sunday February 24th (Seattle store); or Sunday April 20th (Bellevue store).

For details call Cole Gallery at 425-697-2787 or Daniel Smith 206-223-9599 or 425-643-1781, or visit www.kathycollinswatercolors.com

Northwest Plein Air Painters Exhibit

Bend, Oregon - July 2008. Deadline for submissions is May 7th. Prospectus at: www.pleinairpaintersoregon.org Vivian Olsen, Chairperson - vivio@bendbroadband.com

watercolor shows, including the National Watercolor Society's 2006 Annual. She is the author of several books and her video, "Designing Great Starts with Texture and Form" is available through Cheap Joe's.

Parklane Gallery Miniature Show

Parklane Gallery's 16th Annual Juried International Miniature Show will be held May 6th to June 1st, 2008. The deadline for mailed entries is April 30th and for hand entries April 29th and 30th at the Gallery. For additional information and a prospectus go to parklanegallery.com.

Donna Watson Workshop

Donna Watson will teach a three-day workshop June 6, 7, 8th. Cost is \$295. ArtWorks - 201 2nd Ave. S - Edmonds, WA 98020. Contact: Ken Smith at 425-774-6049 or email at: Ken@artworks-edmonds.org

March Meeting - Billie Torbenson

Continued from page 1

demonstration instructor and taught for several years at Green River Community College in Auburn. Billie is a lively and entertaining speaker who will demonstrate her unconventional style and unique methods at our meeting. Be sure to attend!





NORTHWEST WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

P.O. Box 50387
Bellevue, WA 98015-0387

Northwest Watercolor Society
www.nwws.org

- President:** Sheila Mattick (425) 454-2546
- Vice-President:** Linda Dunn (206) 459-6155
- Corresponding Secretary:** Mary Gibbs-Strom (425) 226-9880
- Recording Secretary:** Genny Rees (206) 232-6354
- Treasurer:** Beth Calkins (425) 836-3548
- Newsletter:** Jeff Waters (425) 396-1940

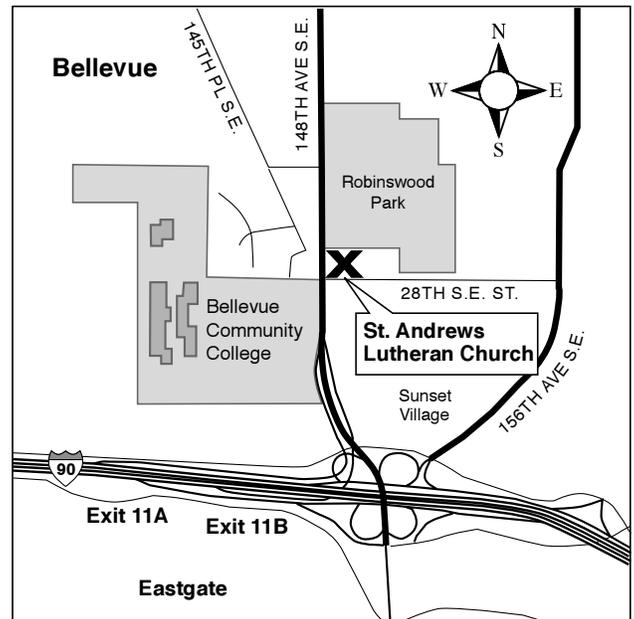
**Newsletter Deadline for the
May/June 2008 edition is April 10, 2008**

Email your items to jeffrey.waters@comcast.net
(Subject line: NWWS or Hot Press)

or mail them to
Jeffrey Waters
P.O. Box 50387
Bellevue, WA 98015-0387

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P.O. Box 50387
Bellevue, WA 98015-0387
irenemorey@hotmail.com

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MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
March 25th and April 22nd

7:00 PM Coffee Social
7:30 PM Meeting

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